

GOP Suspect Probed Writer, Paper Reports

WASHINGTON (AP) — One of the men indicted for the break-in and attempted bugging of Democratic national headquarters undertook a covert investigation of columnist Jack Anderson, The Washington Post reported today.

James W. McCord Jr., former security chief for President Nixon's campaign organization, prepared a confidential memo dealing with Anderson's business and social associates, the Post said. Much of the information in the memo was already generally known and was noncontroversial, according to the Post.

The newspaper quoted "a reliable source close to the Watergate investigation" as confirming that McCord was digging into Anderson's background, possibly to determine his news sources.

The memo written by McCord, who was indicted Sept. 17 along with six others on federal charges of breaking into and attempting to wiretap Democratic offices in

the Watergate complex, was addressed to no particular individual, the newspaper said.

But the report quoted a source as saying it probably was intended for E. Howard Hunt Jr., a White House consultant at the time the memo was written. He, too, was among those indicted in the Watergate case and was fired from the White House job after his name surfaced in the investigation.

The newspaper said the memo deals largely with Anderson's business and social relationship with Anna Chennault, the Chinese-born widow of Gen. Claire Lee Chennault who commanded the Flying Tigers during World War II.

Mrs. Chennault, one of Washington's best-known boosters of the Nationalist Chinese government on Taiwan, is a member of the Republican National Finance Committee and the District of Columbia GOP committee.

The memo relates that Anderson and Mrs. Chennault are part owners of a downtown Washington restaurant and that both helped found Chinese Refugee Relief Inc. in 1962.

The newspaper said Mrs. Chennault could not be reached for comment, but said Anderson called the memo "amateurish."